

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. An outage notification system for detecting a power outage at a customer location, the system comprising:

- 5       a first device operably coupled to a first circuit  
          at the customer location;  
      a second device operably coupled to a second circuit  
          at the customer location;  
      wherein the first device is operable to:
- 10       determine a status of power supply to the first  
          circuit; and  
          communicate the status of power supply to the  
              first circuit to the second device;
- wherein the second device is operable to:
- 15       determine a status of power supply to the  
          second circuit; and  
      notify, via a network, a receiving system  
          associated with the electric utility of a  
          power outage at the customer location
- 20       based at least in part on the statuses of  
          power supply to the first and second  
          circuits.

2. The outage notification system of Claim 1,  
further comprising the receiving system and wherein the
- 25       receiving system is operable to notify the electric  
utility of the power outage when the statuses of power  
supply to the first and second circuits indicate that  
power supply is unavailable in both the first and second  
circuits.

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3. The outage notification system of Claim 1,  
further comprising the receiving system and wherein the  
receiving system is operable to notify at least one  
representative of a customer of the power outage when the  
5 statuses of power supply to the first and second circuits  
indicate that power supply is unavailable in at least one  
of the first and second circuits.

4. The outage notification system of Claim 3,  
wherein the receiving system is operable to notify the at  
10 least one representative of the customer by transmitting  
an email to at least one email address associated with  
the at least one representative.

5. The outage notification system of Claim 3,  
wherein the receiving system is operable to notify the at  
15 least one representative of the customer by transmitting  
a facsimile to at least one facsimile number associated  
with the at least one representative.

6. The outage notification system of Claim 3,  
wherein the receiving system is operable to notify the at  
20 least one representative of the customer by transmitting  
a voice message to at least one telephone number  
associated with the at least one representative.

7. The outage notification system of Claim 3,  
wherein the receiving system is operable to notify the at  
25 least one representative of the customer by transmitting  
a page to at least one pager number associated with the  
at least one representative.

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8. The outage notification system of Claim 1,  
further comprising a third device operably coupled to a  
third circuit, the third device operable to:

5           determine a status of power supply to the third  
            circuit; and  
            communicate the status of power supply to the third  
            circuit to the second device.

9. The outage notification system of Claim 8,  
wherein the second device is operable to notify the  
10   receiving system of a power outage at the customer  
location based at least in part on the statuses of power  
supply to the first, second and third circuits.

10. The outage notification system of Claim 9,  
further comprising the receiving system and wherein the  
15   receiving system is operable to notify the electric  
utility of the power outage when the statuses of power  
supply to the first, second and circuits indicate that  
power supply is unavailable in each of the first, second  
and third circuits.

20   11. The outage notification system of Claim 1,  
wherein the first and second devices each include a  
wireless transceiver and wherein the first device is  
adapted to communicate the status of power supply to the  
first circuit to the second device via the wireless  
25   transceiver.

12. The outage notification system of Claim 1,  
wherein the second device includes a network interface  
operably coupled to the network for communicating with  
the receiver system via the network.

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13. The outage notification system of Claim 12,  
wherein the network includes a cable network.

14. The outage notification system of Claim 12,  
wherein the network includes a telephone network.

5        15. The outage notification system of Claim 14,  
wherein the receiver system includes integrated voice  
response (IVR) system coupled to the telephone network  
and wherein the second device is adapted to communicate  
with the IVR system via the telephone network using at  
10    least one dual-tone multifrequency (DTMF) signal.

16. The outage notification system of Claim 14,  
wherein the receiver system includes a modem data server  
coupled to the telephone network and wherein the network  
interface includes a modem chipset for communicating with  
15    the modem data server via the telephone network.

17. The outage notification system of Claim 1,  
wherein the first device includes an alternating current  
(AC) adaptor operably connectable to an outlet associated  
with the first circuit and wherein the first device is  
20    adapted to determine the status of power supply to the  
first circuit based at least in part on an output of the  
AC adaptor.

18. The outage notification system of Claim 17,  
wherein the second device includes an alternating current  
25    (AC) adaptor operably connectable to an outlet associated  
with the second circuit and wherein the second device is  
adapted to determine the status of power supply to the

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second circuit based at least in part on an output of the  
AC adaptor of the second device.

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19. An outage detection device for detecting a power outage in a circuit comprising:

a circuit interface operably coupleable to the circuit;

5 means for determining a status of power supply to the circuit via the circuit interface; and  
means for communicating the status of power supply to at least one other outage detection device.

20. The outage detection device of Claim 19,  
10 wherein the circuit interface includes an alternating current (AC) adaptor operably coupleable to an outlet associated with the circuit.

21. The outage detection device of Claim 20,  
wherein the means for determining a status of power  
15 supply to the circuit includes a microcontroller operably coupled to the AC adaptor and operable to determine the status of the power supply of the circuit based at least in part on an output of the AC adaptor.

22. The outage detection device of Claim 20,  
20 wherein the outage detection device is powered by an output of the AC adaptor when power supply to the circuit is available.

23. The outage detection device of Claim 22,  
further comprising a battery for providing power to the  
25 outage detection device when power supply to the circuit is unavailable.

24. The outage detection device of Claim 19,  
wherein the means for communicating the status includes a

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wireless transceiver operable to transmit a signal  
representative of the status of the power supply to the  
circuit.

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25. An outage detection device for detecting a power outage at a customer location comprising:  
a circuit interface operably coupleable to a first circuit at the customer location;  
5 means for determining a status of power supply to the first circuit via the circuit interface;  
means for receiving a status of power supply to a second circuit at the customer location; and  
means for notifying a receiving system associated  
10 with the electric utility of a power outage at the customer location via a network based at least in part on the status of the power supply to the first and second circuits.

26. The outage detection device of Claim 25,  
15 wherein the circuit interface includes an alternating current (AC) adaptor operably coupleable to an outlet associated with the first circuit.

27. The outage detection device of Claim 26,  
wherein the means for determining a status of power  
20 supply to the first circuit includes a microcontroller operably coupled to the AC adaptor and operable to determine the status of the power supply to the first circuit based at least in part on an output of the AC adaptor.

25 28. The outage detection device of Claim 26,  
wherein the outage detection device is powered by an output of the AC adaptor when power supply to the circuit is available.



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29. The outage detection device of Claim 28,  
further comprising a battery for providing power to the  
outage detection device when power supply to the circuit  
is unavailable.

5        30. The outage detection device of Claim 29,  
further comprising an indicator for indicating a status  
of the battery.

31. The outage detection device of Claim 25,  
wherein the means for receiving the status of the power  
10 supply to the second circuit includes a wireless  
transceiver operable to receive a signal representative  
of the status of the power supply to the second circuit.

32. The outage detection device of Claim 31,  
wherein the signal representative of the status of the  
15 power supply to the second circuit is transmitted from a  
second outage detection device.

33. The outage detection device of Claim 25,  
wherein the network includes a cable network.

34. The outage detection device of Claim 25,  
20 wherein the network includes a telephone network.

35. The outage detection device of Claim 34,  
wherein the receiving system includes a modem data server  
and wherein the means for notifying the electric utility  
of a power outage includes a modem chipset adapted to  
25 communicate with the modem data server via the telephone  
network.

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36. The outage detection device of Claim 34,  
wherein the receiving system includes an integrated voice  
response (IVR) system and wherein the means for notifying  
the electric utility of a power outage includes means for  
5 communicating with the integrated voice response (IVR)  
system via the telephone network using at least one dual-  
tone multifrequency (DTMF) signal..

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37. A method for notifying a customer of a power outage at a customer location comprising:  
determining a status of power supply to each of a plurality of circuits at the customer location  
5 using a plurality of outage detection devices, each outage detection device operably coupled to a respective circuit of the plurality of circuits; and

10 notifying at least one representative of the customer of a power outage at the customer location when the statuses of power supply to the plurality of circuits indicate an unavailability of power supply to least one of the plurality of circuits.

15 38. The method of Claim 37, wherein notifying the at least one representative of the customer includes transmitting an email to at least one email address associated with the at least one representative.

20 39. The method of Claim 37, wherein notifying the at least one representative of the customer includes transmitting a facsimile to at least one facsimile number associated with the at least one representative.

25 40. The method of Claim 37, wherein notifying the at least one representative of the customer includes transmitting a voice message to at least one telephone number associated with the at least one representative.

41. The method of Claim 37, wherein notifying the at least one representative of the customer includes

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transmitting a page to at least one pager number  
associated with the at least one representative.

42. The method of Claim 37, further comprising  
notifying an electric utility of a power outage at the  
5 customer location when the statuses of power supply to  
the plurality of circuits indicate an unavailability of  
power supply to each of the plurality of circuits.

43. The method of Claim 42, wherein notifying the  
electric utility of a power outage at the customer  
10 location includes communicating an indication of a power  
outage to the electric utility via a network.

44. The method of Claim 43, wherein the network  
includes a cable network.

45. The method of Claim 43, wherein the network  
15 includes a telephone network.

46. The method of Claim 45, wherein the receiving  
system includes an integrated voice response (IVR) system  
and wherein communicating the indication of a power  
outage to the electric utility includes communicating the  
20 indication of a power outage to the IVR system via the  
telephone network using at least one dual-tone  
multifrequency (DTMF) signal.

47. The method of Claim 45, wherein the receiving  
system includes a modem data server and wherein  
25 communicating the indication of a power outage to the  
electric utility includes communicating the indication of  
a power outage to the modem data via the telephone  
network.

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48. The method of Claim 37, wherein determining a status of power supply to each of a plurality of circuits at the customer location includes:

5 coupling, for each of the plurality of circuits, an alternating current (AC) adaptor to an outlet associated with the circuit; and

10 determining, for each of the plurality of circuits, an availability of power supply to the circuit based at least in part on an output of the AC adaptor coupled to the outlet associated with the circuit.

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49. A method for detecting a power outage a  
customer location, the method comprising:

5       coupling an alternating current (AC) adaptor to an  
          outlet associated with a first circuit at the  
          customer location;  
          determining a status of power supply to the first  
          circuit based at least in part on an output of  
          the AC adaptor;  
10       receiving a status of power supply to a second  
          circuit at the customer location; and  
          communicating, via a network, the statuses of power  
          supply to the first and second circuits to a  
          receiving system connected to the network and  
          associated with an electric utility.

15       50. The method of Claim 49, wherein the network  
          includes a cable network.

          51. The method of Claim 49, wherein the network  
          includes a telephone network.

20       52. The method of Claim 51, wherein the receiving  
          system includes a modem data server connected to the  
          telephone network.

          53. The method of Claim 51, wherein the receiving  
          system includes an integrated voice response (IVR) system  
25       connected to the telephone networks.